urally he finds plenty of people to provide it. He apparently has no idea that he discredits his statements by the authorities he gives for them. His defence of MacQueen and his inability to understand the Gorky incident show his limitations. It is a pity that Mr. Wells will try to reform the world and will not stick to the class of fiction that is within the range of his capacity.

A little volume that should be of very great interest to painters and that the general public may get something out of by careful reading is "The Secret of the Old Masters," by Albert Abendschein (Appletons). It is a careful study of the technical processes of the old painters, which the author thinks he has discovered. The holding back of the discovery till the end, a correct procedure in detective romance, does not tend to make this book readable. The gist of the discovery, as we gather, is the proper admixture of oil and color, followed by exposure of the painting to the sunshine

for drying purposes.

To the recent volumes of his autobiography
the Rev. Moncure D. Conway adds an account of his visit to India in "My Pilgrimage to the Wise Men of the East" (Houghton, Mifflin and Company). When one of the swarthy Orientals turned up in Cambridge and somebody asked the late Prof. Gurney what he supposed his religion was, the answer was: "Oh, he is a Buddhist like the rest of us." Mr. Conway's Unitarianism has always been of a very advanced type and in Ceylon and Hindustan he found many kindred spirits. His reminiscences, however, are extremely discursive; he does not hesitate at any moment to turn back to any recollections of his long life that seem to him apposite. Those who treasure the "Autobiography" will want this addi-

tional volume of picturesque experiences. Some members of the Princeton class of 1896 have had the happy idea of getting up a sort of memorial volume, "Ten Years of Princeton University" (F. B. McBreen and Company, New York), which gives in short compass a very thorough account of the changes that have taken place since the College of New Jersey became officially a university. The period coincides with the decennial of the class's graduation. The publication of the volume is worthy of imitation by classes in other universities that may wish to leave a lasting memorial. It is copiously and beautifully illustrated with photographs of buildings. The changes in the faculty, the courses of instruction, the methods of discipline are all described, and the athletic records for the last ten years are given in full. Every Princeton man will want the book.

#### Foreign Parts.

The volume on "Northern Spain," by Edgar T. A. Wigram (Adam and Charles Black; Macmillans), is far more interesting than most of the books with pretty colored pictures published by that firm. The author, needlessly alarmed by the earlier books of Ford and Borrow, throws up the sponge at once and limits himself to describing his personal experiences in a bicycle trip. This leads him up and down through picturesque and nearly unvisited portions of the northwestern corner of Spain. His title is not exact, for though he makes his way as far south as Toledo and Merida he barely touches northeastern Spain and doesn't get into Catalonia at all. Mr. Wigram only describes what he sees and does it pleasantly with a proper eye to what is artistic and with very little gush. His pictures are very satisfactory; they render what the artist sees honestly; it may be without overmuch distinction, but certainly with no straining for effect. The book will be a pleasant reminder to those who have had the good fortune to see a little of the real

An unpretentious account of European travel in the vivid form of letters home is published by Mr. William Seymour Edwards in "Through Scandinavia to Mos-The best part of the book is the leisurely journey in Denmark and Norway. He saw little of Sweden besides Stockholm. When it comes to Russia the author unfortunately feels bound to speculate on social conditions, which hurried travellers had much better let alone. The book is illustrated with many photographs taken by the author.

The innocence of Minnie S. C. Ross's "Around the Mediterranean" (The Grafton Press. New York) disarms the critic. It is the diary of a Cook's tourist, apparently a wide awake Western woman desirous of information, kept for the information of her offspring. The eagerness with which she follows the guide book is pathetic; she indulges in sprightly bouts with foreign languages, such as may be effective in women's club meetings; but invariably with disaster to herself, of which, however, she is blissfully unconscious. Every now and then we catch a delightful view of her husband declining to be dragged around and preferring to loaf about the hotel. We should have liked to have his impression of the places so conscientiously visited by his wife; it is to him, we infer, that we owe indirectly the interesting information about the pools on the daily run of the steamship on the homeward voyage.

A description of modern Italy, which, though written in a key of high strung enthusiasm and distributing praise indiscriminately, yet tells about many things that it may be difficult to find elsewhere, will be found in Helen Zimmern's "Italy of the Italians" (Charles Scribner's Sons). We doubt whether even in Italy the fifth rate lights in literature, art and music that Miss Zimmer praises so highly are taken altogether seriously. In presenting them to the outer world more discrimination between what is of real worth and what is a matter of transitory fashion is surely called for. We wish that the optimistic views of the author about the country had a little more solid foundation.

#### Joseph Vance's Remarkable Story.

We are pleased to be able to say that no truth at all abides in what is declared in the sub-title of Mr. William De Morgan's story, Joseph Vance; an Ill-written Autobiography" (Henry Holt & Co.). The reader will ind as soon as he begins the book that nothing whatever is the matter with Joseph's powers of composition. His ability of biographical representation is absolute, and it is too obvious to be impugned. The tale overflows with an old fashioned and truly tobust humor. For detail of scene the present day purveyor of "local color" may look ere and become informed. We are reminded of Dichens, though this hand doubtess is more adventurous, in places considerbly ruder. We suspect that not many slory tellers in our time would care to embark upon quite so frank a realism as that which Joseph employs in his early chapters n relating certain things about his father. The elder Vance, when in liquor, was a very ougnacious and loquacious man. He did things and said things that are well calculated to curdle the polite reader's blood, and loseph sets them all down, nothing extenuating, like the faithful biographer that

He tells how his father quarrelled with Mr. Gunn, a chimneysweep who butted with his head, because Mr. Gunn, without asking permission, had "crocked" with his thumbnail a "hinseck" that Mr. Vance had found at the bottom of his own ale pot. and Company) is a republication. The

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"This here hinseck," said Mr. Vance, "come out of my beer, wot I paid for, square. Consequent this here hinseck I account as my hinseck." And again he said, addressing the bar lady: "I ask you, Miss, have I said or have I not said clear and plain that I regard this here hinseck as belonging? And have I said or have I not said, equally clear and plain, that if any man (or for that matter any other) was to presoom to crock this hinseck on this here counter I would fetch him a smack over the mouth?" Upon this Mr. Gunn treated the insect in the forbidden way, and Joseph tells with all his capable detail of the fight that followed.

He tells much more. The biography is copious, running to upward of 500 closely printed pages. It is a remarkable work and the reader will say as much when he comes to it.

#### A Little Girl Cavaller.

In "Merrylips," by Beulah Marie Dix (The Macmillan Company), we have the story of a little girl who lived in the time of the Roundheads and the Cavaliers. She had the spirit of a boy, had "learned to climb and to vault, to pitch a quoit and toss a ball, to sit a horse and whip a trout brook, to play fair always and to keep back the tears when she was hurt," things rather remarkable, of course, for a little girl of 8 to do; and when her godmother sent her a doll, prettily dressed in figured silk with sleeves of lawn and a neat cloak and hood, she screamed and dashed it to the floor and struck it with her foot," because the matters that she wanted and expected at that time were a fish line and a fourpenny knife, and a doll was terribly disappointing. Of course she deserved some rebuke when, one time, playing with her brothers, Flip and Munn, she came under the observation of her mother just as "she screamed 'Hang thee, variet!' and hurled herself upon Flip"; but we could not help feeling sorry for her when her mother, a very quiet and decorous lady, said gravely: "You will go to your dear godmother, Lady Sybil, at her house of Larkland in the Weald of Sussex. She hath long been fain of your company, and in her household I know that you will receive such nurture as becometh a maid. Now go unto my woman and be made tidy."

As it turned out, to be with this godmother was not a terrible thing at all; and indeed it was owing to this visit that Merrylips was enabled to be a chief figure in a number of those stirring adventures that have made the Cavalier and Roundhead era so famous The child was a Royalist in all her little bones, but this we think will not be held to be a grievance by any reader, since in all the romances of this brilliant period that we remember the particularly fine and deserving peple have been on the Cavalier side. The author dedicates her story "to every little girl who has wished for an hour to be a little boy." If the tale is not read with deep interest by a multitude of little girls we shall be greatly mistaken.

#### For Young Readers.

Though the amusing nonsense verses of Mr. Burges Johnson are addressed chiefly to an older audience, children will also find entertainment in his "Beastly Rhymes" (T. Y. Crowell and Company.) The fun is mild and the form not very original, but the author has struck the right note of burlesque and his jingles are melodious. They are helped out greatly by Mr. E. Warde Blaisdell's excellent caricatures.

The charming little prose poems that are included in Mrs. Laura E. Richards's "The Silver Crown" are, we fear, a little above the comprehension of the generality of children. Those who can understand them will enjoy them very much. Their elders certainly will appreciate the author's delicacy of touch.

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reminiscences are curious and individual and contain some matter that was not intended for children. The migration to America of the author's grandparents seventy years ago was out of the common. Sakae Shioya's "When I Was a Boy in Japan" in the same series would have been better if the author had not been so thoroughly Americanized and if he had avoided a somewhat sentimental tone. Once more does Mr. Ralph Henry Ba.

bour, in "The Crimson Sweater," lead a manly and athletic young hero through the intrigues of boarding school life. A full course of rowing, football, baseball and other sports is supplemented with vigorous hazing. There is action from beginning to end. We wish, however, that Mr. Barbour had not supplied the young girl whom he introduces with "luridly red" hair. In another book that appears simultaneously, "Four Afoot" (Appletons), Mr. Barbour puts several young men known to readers of previous books of his through the healthful and entertaining experiences of camping out in the wilds of Long Island.

Mr. Ernest Dressel North desires to inform his Friends and Patrons that he has recently returned from a purchasing tour abroad, where he secured and has on sale many Choice, Rare and Second Hand Books, as well as Autograph Letters and

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Continued on Eighth Page.

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